

Church in Regina

Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church—Week 7

THE PATTERNS OF PERFECTING

The Apostles

The **patterns of perfecting** are the **apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers**. In Acts 20 Paul reminded the elders in Ephesus of what he did when he was among them. That meant that he wanted the elders to do the same thing that he did among them. He told them to remember how he was with them for three years, admonishing all the saints night and day with tears (v. 31). He said that he did not shrink from declaring to them all the counsel of God (v. 27). He also reminded them that he taught them publicly and from house to house (v. 20). This was how the apostle Paul perfected the saints.

In 1 Thessalonians Paul likens himself to a **nursing mother** (2:6-8) and an **exhorting father** (vv. 11-12). He was a **mother cherishing and nourishing the saints** and a **father teaching the saints**. This is the way to perfect the saints. The gifted ones among us should do the work of cherishing and nourishing the saints as a mother and of exhorting, admonishing, teaching, and instructing them as a father. **We should have many mothers and fathers in the churches**. We have to follow the Lord to go out as a mother and as a father to visit others. There are many saints among us who have not been in the church meetings for years. All these dear ones need us to nourish them. We should not go to them and say, "We haven't seen you in a long time. Please come to the meeting." We have to nourish them and take the opportunity to give them some helpful instructions. We have to recover the dear ones among us who have not been coming to the meetings for years. Paul says that he yearned over the saints and was well pleased to impart to them not only the gospel but also his own soul (1 Thes. 2:8). We all should do this kind of work.

...If we do not respond to this fellowship and the Lord returns, He may call us slothful slaves and cast us into outer darkness for a period of time (Matt. 25:26, 30). **It is not good enough to have merely the knowledge of what the gifted persons do. Many sinners need to be saved, and many backsliding saints need to be recovered. We have to cooperate with the Lord to carry out this work.** We also have to speak forth Christ into others, ministering the riches of Christ into others whenever the church comes together. There is the need of such a revival among all the churches. **We have to bear our responsibility and do our duty.** Our duty today is to perfect others. We have to get people saved, nourish them, teach them, raise them up, and put them into the church meetings. This is not to build up a congregation but to build up the Body of Christ in an organic way.

The Prophets

A pattern of prophesying is seen in 1 Corinthians 14. Verse 3 says, "He who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men." This is a pattern. Verses 24 and 25 say that prophesying convicts people and examines them. When we speak the word with a pure motive without any intention to judge others, our word will be used by the Lord to convict others, to examine them, and to make their condition manifest to them. **When people's real condition is manifested to them, they will admit that God is among us.** If God were not among us, how could an unbeliever or unlearned person's condition be manifested to him when we do not even know it? Such prophesying ministers God to the hearers and brings them to God.

The Evangelists

Acts 8 presents the pattern of the evangelists. Verse 4 says that all the scattered saints from Jerusalem went out to preach the gospel. Surely their preaching involved visiting others. These saints did not have a hall to have a large gathering for the preaching of the gospel. **They went everywhere to visit people** and bring the good news to them. Philip the evangelist also went out to preach the gospel (v. 5). As he was on the road, he preached the gospel to an Ethiopian man and baptized him. He did not baptize him in a baptistery but in a body of water that was near the road. **The baptisms of the early believers were without regulations and rituals. They did what was convenient according to where they were.**

The Shepherds and Teachers

The Scriptures also show us the pattern of the shepherds and teachers. The Lord's conversation with Peter in John 21:15-17 indicates that **if we love the Lord, we must feed His lambs, shepherd His sheep, and feed His sheep**. In Matthew 28:20 the Lord charged the disciples to teach the ones whom they had baptized. They were to teach them to observe whatever the Lord had commanded them. This is the perfecting work of the shepherds and teachers (Excerpts from CWWL, 1988, vol. 4, The Excelling Gift for the Building Up of the Church).

Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—Apr. 16 (Group 1—In person; Group 2—Zoom)
2. Church Activity / Blending Conference in Edmonton on May 3 to 5. Registration due Apr. 14.
3. Summer Training Registration Deadline—May 1

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, appear to us in the way of enlightenment, vision, or revelation. We want to see You in all things. Infuse us like Paul, so we can also be a pattern in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.
2. Make us proper ambassadors of Christ – one who lives by what Christ is, one who is well pleasing to Christ in all things, one who is constrained by the love of God, and one who knows others by the spirit.
3. Lord, cause us to be patterns and shepherds to those whom we are caring for, not through teaching but through feeding. May our manner of life be a great way of infusing others with the gospel.
4. Lord, have mercy on us and purify us. Save us from being godly for the sake of gain. You know the intentions of our hearts. Test us, approve us and use us according to Your valuation.
5. Lord give us a heart like that of a nursing mother, not to seek glory from man, but to serve others with tender care. Remove any thought of position, dignity, or authority in us that we will have the free way to nourish and cherish others.
6. Continue to make us proper patterns of the gospel. Show us how to conduct ourselves, freed from greed, serving as mothers who cherish, and as fathers who exhort for Your sake.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the Spring 2024 International Blending Conference that will take place in London on April 20 to 21. Please pray that many saints will be able to attend and that the Lord will speak a timely word for the building up of His Body.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the application and processing of the Church in Regina as a charitable institution.
2. Pray for the new ones. Encourage them each day to enjoy You, enjoy Your word, and exercise their spirit. Preserve them in the church life and bless them sevenfold with Yourself.
3. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
 - > Sorronda Family (Dana and Yeska)
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)
 - > Miranda Family (Ann Margarete and her family)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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